

[26th August 1926]

Action taken on resolutions regarding closure of toddy shops.

* 2326 Q.—MR. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether any steps were taken or effect was given to the resolutions accepted by the Madras Legislative Council some months ago regarding excise policy in removing all the existing toddy, arrack or beer shops from the localities of the Adi-Dravidas two furlongs away;

(b) whether new licensing boards as contemplated in the resolution were created already in all the districts and the members appointed, due care being taken to see that nomination is given to a member of the depressed classes on that board; and

(c) if nothing has been done as per queries (a) and (b) the reason for not giving effect to them?

A.—The subject is under the consideration of the Government.

MR. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know when the Government are likely to come to a decision and how long it will take them?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"It is a very important matter involving reference to several members of the Government and also to the Finance Committee. It is not possible to jump at any conclusion from the facts available."

Local Boards.*Travelling allowances to presidents of district boards.*

* 2327 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: With reference to the answer to question No. 319 asked in the Legislative Council on the 8th February 1924, will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the district boards whose presidents drew travelling allowances at rates higher than they were eligible for;

(b) whether the excess amounts so drawn have since been recovered; and

(c) the orders passed by the Government after consideration of the whole question?

A.—(a) & (b) Complete information is not available.

(c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to G.O. No. 517, L. & M., dated 26th February 1924 (published in Part I-A of the *Fort St George Gazette*, dated 4th March 1924).

MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"When I asked this question in February 1924 the matter was old enough. Now I am repeating that question. The answer is that complete information is not available. Will the hon. the Minister be so good as to give the information so far as it is collected?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"The Government have no objection to give the information that is available."

MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"With reference to the answer to clause (c), I beg to bring to your notice that it refers to an issue of the *Fort St. George Gazette*. I wish to know whether the gazette is available here for reference by any hon. Member who may have to put a supplementary question."

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The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I think it is not a question put to me."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" It was a question put to you, Sir. I think the rule is that, when the questions are laid on the table of the House, the references quoted in the answers should be available on the Secretary's table. I want to know whether that has been complied with."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" There is no suggestion in the question that any particular way of publication should be resorted to by the Government. The hon. Member asks only for the orders passed by the Government after the consideration of the question and the Government refer the hon. Member to the *Port St. George Gazette*. If he had asked that the orders passed should be placed on the table of the House the Government would surely have complied with the request."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" I think that it is the practice that the references quoted in the answers should be available on the Secretary's table. You will kindly consider the question."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It has never been the practice that, when reference is made to previous answers, those answers are placed on the table of the House."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" My recollection is that the question was considered and orders were issued that when such references are given, copies of them should be made available."

Encroachments and damages to country tracks.

* 2328 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : With reference to the answer given at the meeting of the Council on 19th August 1925 to question No. 96, will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government and the hon. the Member for Revenue, be pleased to state the result of their consideration of the steps to prevent encroachments on and damage to the country tracks?

A.—The matter is still under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know at what stage the matter is? I understand that people are put to considerable inconvenience. The question is addressed to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government and the hon. the Member for Revenue. May I know from either of them as to when this matter will be disposed of?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" As early as possible."

Representation of depressed classes in certain local boards.

* 2329 Q.—Rao Sahib R. SRINIVASAN : With reference to the answer to question No. 1767 at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 24th March 1926, will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government and the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether any of the Indian Christian members of the *Mayavaram Taluk Board* and of the *Tranquebar Union Board* have been nominated to represent the depressed classes; and